

Paxton-Reed House  
(Monroe Street East Historic District)  
100 Twelfth Street  
Wheeling  
Ohio County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-200

HABS  
WVA  
35-WHEEL  
24-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PAXTON-REED HOUSE

HABS No. WV-200

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WVA,  
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24-

Location: 100 Twelfth Street, Wheeling  
Ohio County, West Virginia.

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Dr. Robert J. Reed, III.

Present Use: Dwelling and Medical office.

Significance: This two-story residence was built by William Paxton in 1852. His son, James Paxton, lived here when he helped draw up West Virginia's first state constitution. It exemplifies the Romano-Tuscan mode of the Renaissance Revival style. The later Adamesque Colonial Revival entry portico with semi-elliptical fan light and sidelights, the Romano-Tuscan window details and roof top cupola are particularly interesting. Since 1902 three generations of Robert J. Reeds have lived and practiced medicine in this house.

PART I.. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1852. The property is mentioned in the 1852 Land Book of Wheeling, Virginia, with the notation, "Building added."
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Paxton-Reed House was built on Lot 10 of Square 20, Belair Addition, Clay District in Wheeling. This property was sold to William Paxton by Noah Zane, son of Colonel Ebenezer Zane, who with his two brothers, led the first group of settlers to take "tomahawk possession" of what was to become the town of Wheeling. The following references tracing the title of Lot 10, Square 20 may be found in the Ohio County, West Virginia Deed Books.

1832 Deed, 20 May, recorded in Deed Book 18, page 212. Noah Zane and wife to William Paxton \$675.00 for Lot 10, Square 20.

1855 Deed, 25 June, recorded in Deed Book 40, page 384. William Paxton to James W. Paxton \$4,500.00 for Lot 10, Square 20.

1867 Deed, 14 May, recorded in Deed Book 51, page 545. James W. Paxton to Benjamin Stanton. \$12,000.00 for Lot 10, Square 20.

1873 Deed, 4 October, recorded in Deed Book 61, page 178. Nancy Stanton, widow and devisee of Benjamin Stanton to Rebecca A. Hardin \$10,000.00 for Lot 10, Square 20.

1902 Deed, 12 May, recorded in Deed Book 108, page 490. Rebecca Harden devised 7/8 interest in her property to Ida Aschman to Dr. Robert J. Reed 7/8 interest in Lot 10, Square 20.

1902 Deed, 28 May, recorded in Deed Book 108, page 506. Harold J. Wise's guardian to Robert J. Reed 1/8 interest in Lot 10, Square 20.

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Not known.

5. Alterations and additions: According to Mrs. McHenry, who came to work for Dr. Reed, Sr. in 1932 and has continued to serve Dr. Reed, Jr. and Dr. Reed III, there have been very few structural changes done to the Paxton-Reed House. The first floor front room and hallway ceilings have been changed to permit the introduction of flood lights. An open side porch was enclosed as a waiting room for patients. Later a partition separating the back one-third of the sunporch was built to accommodate an X-ray machine. At the rear of the house a butler's pantry was turned into a lavatory. The old kitchen was partitioned in 1926, at which time a bathroom was installed. The old back porch was knocked down by a car and has since been replaced by a concrete porch and stairway. The upstairs was changed in 1926 to provide a small kitchen when Dr. Robert Reed, Jr. and his family lived upstairs. More recently, a plaster board wall partition has been erected at the top of the stairs to better insulate the first floor. Stylistic evidence suggests that the present Colonial Revival portico and front entrance were installed around 1902, when the first Dr. Reed acquired the house.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Two families significant to the Wheeling community have been associated with the house at 100 Twelfth Street.

The builder and first owner, William Paxton, moved to Wheeling in 1814. He was one of Wheeling's earliest merchants and established the first dry goods store in the city. His poor health necessitated his early retirement from that enterprise. In 1839 he bought out Moore and Carr, a wholesale grocery house and took as his partner his son James. This partnership flourished, and William was able to retire in favor of his son's interests.

James Paxton continued with the wholesale grocery business until 1854, when he retired to settle family business. At that time he became one of the directors of the Northwestern Bank of Virginia, a member of the City Council, and one of the Commissioners who compromised the railroad debt of the city.

When the State of Virginia seceded from the Union, James Paxton emerged as an active organizer of Union sympathizers in Western Virginia and argued in favor of the legitimate authority of the United States government. He was a member of the convention held in Wheeling which re-organized the state government of Virginia. Paxton was an enthusiastic "new state and free state man" and participated in framing the new state constitution. As one of the Commissioners appointed by the Constitutional Convention he carried the West Virginia Constitution to Washington and presented it to the U.S. Congress.

Dr. Robert J. Reed acquired the house in 1902. Subsequently, three generations of Doctors Robert J. Reed have lived and practiced medicine from the family home at 100 Twelfth Street.

C. Sources of Information:

Newton, J. H., Nichols, C. C., and Sprankle, A. C. History of the Panhandle, Ohio, Brooke, Hancock and Marshall West Virginia. Wheeling, West Virginia: J. W. Caldwell, 1879. 450 pages.

Interviews: Mrs. McHenry, 27 September, 1976.

Prepared by: Candace Reed,  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
September 1976

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This mid-19th century Italianate residence has a later Colonial Revival portico with a fan light over the doorway. The roof top cupola is also an interesting feature of the building.
2. Condition of fabric: the first floor interior is in good condition. Other parts of the building, exterior and interior are deteriorating.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Main building - approximately forty-four feet across the five-bay front and forty eight feet deep. There is also a twelve foot wide addition on the west side. Two stories.
2. Foundations: Coursed stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Brick painted brown, and peeling badly.
4. Structural system, framing: Wooden joists.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: For front portico, See photographs. The portico is elevated about three feet above grade with sandstone steps leading up to the level of the porch. An interesting decorative feature are the cast iron sculptures of sitting dogs,

one of which flanks each side of the steps. There is a front entry on the addition but no porch, as the steps lead directly up to the doorway. There is a small porch in the rear, constructed of contemporary concrete block.

6. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys. Two are on the west wall, two on the south.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: For front entrance, SEE photograph WV-200-5. Fanlight and sidelights have leaded bevel-edged clear glass. Sidelights are flanked by Roman Ionic engaged colonettes on plinths. Trim is painted white. The addition also has a fanlight doorway. It is flanked by glass side lights with Ionic fluted pilasters beyond that to each side. There are two doors at the rear on the main section and one garage sized wooden doorway on the addition at the rear.
  - b. Windows and shutters: For front windows, SEE photographs. Other windows on the building are similar but with less decorative lintels. Also of interest as openings are cast iron grates over the basement windows in the front.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Hip on the main roof and flat on the one story addition. The covering is tar paper.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Both the main section and the addition have a heavy cornice with shallow brackets, dentils and plain frieze.
  - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Of particular interest is the octagonal cupola at the center of the main roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Both the first and second floors are organized with rooms about a central hallway. The main stair is to the right (west) center, and there is generally one major room, with a fireplace, anchoring each corner on both floors. The addition on the west appears to be early with access beside the main stairs. It has two rooms. The basement is entered from both the interior and exterior and has four rooms.
2. Stairways: The main stairway is to the right (west) side of the main hallway. It is beautifully proportioned with its curved turn. The newel post and banister are natural wood and quite handsome in design. The hall landing at the second floor was originally open to the stair but has been partitioned off. Other stairs include a small enclosed stair directly opposite the main entry against the rear. It continues from the second floor up to the cupola. Another stair is near the left rear (south east) corner.

3. Flooring: The first floor is carpet, linoleum and hardwood which is probably not original. The second floor is wood flooring and is probably original. The basement has both wood plank and brick flooring.
  4. Wall and ceiling finish: Most of the walls are papered plaster. The ceilings are high, about twelve feet and are generally plaster. Some ceilings have circular decorative plaster reliefs in the center, marking the previous location of chandeliers. The basement walls are brick, plaster over brick, and in one room there is a high wooden wainscot.
  5. Doors and doorways: The door casings are very bulky in appearance, both floors having heavy but plain cornices over most doors.
  6. Special decorative features: The fireplace mantels in each of the rooms on the west side, first floor, are particularly interesting and very different in appearance. The rear one is wood, painted white, with double fluted columns on each side. The front mantel is gray marble with a curvilinear design. There are also some high built-in cabinets in the center room, front, on the second floor.
  7. Notable hardware: Some door hardware is original.
  8. Mechanical equipment: Contemporary.
- D. Site and Surroundings:

The building sits prominently on the southwest corner at the intersection of Twelfth and Byron Streets. The site slopes away to both the west and south. There is a stone wall defining the front lawn, with the first floor level about five feet above street level. The rear of the building is open as it adjoins a large parking lot. To the west, the next building is about thirty feet away.

Prepared by: John McRae  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
September, 1976

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, in cooperation with the Friends of Wheeling, Inc. The measured drawings were made during the summer of 1976 under the supervision of John M. McRae (University of Florida) with architectural technicians Mark L. Hall, Foreman, (Pennsylvania State University); Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University); Ruthie D. Wiley (Mississippi State University); Alan G. Willig (City College of New York); and Architectural Historian Candace Reed (George Washington University). The photographs were taken in 1977 by HABS Photographer Jack E. Boucher.

**ADDENDUM TO:**

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